master circular indicating causative factors and suggestive remedial actions with regard to frauds in the housing finance sector was circulated by NHB to all HFCs in June 2005. During the period April 2005 to March 2006, 65 frauds in housing loans have been reported by various HFCs. The *modus operandi* and causative factors were circulated by NHB amongst all the HFCs for their information and necessary action.

Pluging of revenue leakages in large trade units

767. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts are being made to plug revenue leakages in the Large Trade Units (LTU) in the country due to lack of efficient and trained personnel in the Department of Customs and Central Excise;

(b) what efforts have been made to educate officers of the Central Excise and Customs to detect and stall the leakages of revenue being done systematically in connivance with the organized Chambers of Commerce; and

(c) the number of consultants having offices in Pune, Mumbai, Bangalore, Delhi and Kolkata who have not been raided by the Vigilance, Enforcement or Intelligence wings of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Large Trade Units are subjected to regular audit by the Internal Audit teams. If the circumstances require, then special Audit is conducted by the Cost Accountants as per the provisions of Central Excise Act, 1944. The Anti-Evasion wings of the Commissionerate as well as Directorate General. Central Excise Intelligence carry out preventive action against units about which intelligence or information is received. *Modus Operandi* circulars are issued by Directorate General, Central Excise Intelligence and Directorate General, Revenue Intelligence to keep the field formations well versed with the various methods adopted to evade duty. The National Academy of Customs Excise and Narcotics, Faridabad and its zonal units conduct regular trainings for all levels of officers to upgrade their skills. Training schedules include courses on cost accounting,

financial literacy including EA 2000, risk assessment, commercial frauds, money laundering, anti-evasion, anti-smuggling, etc.

(c) This information is not maintained by this Department.

Appointment of tax ombudsmen

768. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are working on a proposal to appoint tax ombudsmen throughout the country to resolve taxpayers disputes or grievances against the Income Tax Department;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the proposed date of implementation of the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Department has introduced the Income Tax Ombudsman Guidelines, 2006 with effect from 1st January 2006, with the objective of resolution of complaints relating to public grievances against the Income-Tax Department, and to facilitate the satisfaction or settlement of such complaints. The Guidelines envisage appointment of 12 Income Tax Ombudsmen at New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Pune, Kanpur, Chandigarh , Bhopal and Kochi. The Income Tax Ombudsmen at New Delhi and Kolkata have already been appointed.

Increase in ADB Aid

769. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has increased the quantum of aid to country during the current year compared to last year;

(b) if so, the comparative details thereof;

(c) the amount utilised for which purpose State-wise; and